

ORDER NO. 4096

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20268-0001

Before Commissioners:

Robert G. Taub, Chairman;
Mark Acton, Vice Chairman;
Tony Hammond; and
Nanci E. Langley

Competitive Product Prices
Priority Mail Contract 266 (MC2017-41)
Negotiated Service Agreements

Docket No. CP2017-66

ORDER APPROVING AMENDMENT TO
PRIORITY MAIL NEGOTIATED SERVICE AGREEMENT

(Issued September 14, 2017)

I. INTRODUCTION

The Postal Service seeks to amend a Priority Mail negotiated service agreement.¹ For the reasons discussed below, the Commission approves the Amendment.

In Order No. 3688, the Commission approved the Priority Mail Contract 266 negotiated service agreement (Existing Agreement).² On September 13, 2017, the

¹ Notice of United States Postal Service of Amendment to Priority Mail Contract 266, with Portions Filed Under Seal, September 13, 2017 (Notice). The amendment is an attachment to the Notice (Amendment).

² See Docket Nos. MC2017-41 and CP2017-66, Order Adding Priority Mail Contract 266 to the Competitive Product List, December 22, 2016 (Order No. 3688). The contract was later amended. See Order No. 3988, Order Approving Amendment to Priority Mail Negotiated Service Agreement, June 30, 2017.

Postal Service filed notice that it has agreed to the Amendment to the Existing Agreement.

The Postal Service intends for the Amendment to become effective two business days after the date that the Commission completes its review of the Notice. Notice at 1.

II. COMMISSION ANALYSIS

The Commission has reviewed the Notice and the accompanying materials filed under seal.

Cost considerations. The Commission reviews competitive product prices to ensure that each product covers its attributable costs, does not cause market dominant products to subsidize competitive products, and contributes to the Postal Service's institutional costs. 39 U.S.C. § 3633(a); 39 C.F.R. §§ 3015.5 and 3015.7. As long as the revenue generated by the product exceeds its attributable costs, the product is unlikely to reduce the contribution of competitive products as a whole or to adversely affect the ability of competitive products as a whole to contribute an appropriate share of institutional costs. In other words, if a product covers its attributable costs, it is likely to comply with 39 U.S.C. § 3633(a).

The Amendment changes the date on which volume-based tiered pricing takes effect, changes the customer's volume commitment to include other Priority Mail Packages, and makes minor changes to the wording of other provisions. See Notice, Attachment A at 1-2.

The Amendment does not materially affect the underlying financial analysis of the Existing Agreement. Thus, the Commission finds that the Existing Agreement, as amended, comports with the provisions applicable to rates for competitive products in 39 U.S.C. § 3633(a) and 39 C.F.R. § 3015.7.

Other considerations. The Postal Service states that the Amendment shall become effective on two business days after the date that the Commission completes its review. Notice at 1. If the Existing Agreement, as amended, is terminated prior to the scheduled expiration date, the Postal Service shall promptly notify the Commission.

In conclusion, the Commission approves the Existing Agreement, as amended.

III. ORDERING PARAGRAPHS

It is ordered:

1. The Commission approves the Priority Mail Contract 266 negotiated service agreement, as amended.
2. The Postal Service shall notify the Commission if the Existing Agreement, as amended, terminates prior to the scheduled expiration date.

By the Commission.

Stacy L. Ruble
Secretary